

## **PCs not alone in failure to protect future**

The Toronto Star

December 10, 2018 Monday

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**Section:** EDITORIAL; Pg. A12

**Length:** 369 words

### **Body**

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No to a team of cronies, Editorial, Dec. 4

The Ford government's new climate change plan will cost taxpayers at least \$400 million and will cut carbon emissions a mere 8 per cent over 11 years.

The Ontario government is not alone in its failure to do what's needed to protect our children's future from the escalating impacts of climate change. There is hardly a government anywhere that has stepped up. As Scottish journalist Neil Mackay recently wrote, it's as if we only worry about our mortgage payments while there's a killer in our house with a gun at our child's head. This unwillingness by most adults to take the actions needed to protect children is why 15-year-old Greta Thunberg of Sweden has skipped school every Friday for the past four months to protest in front of the Swedish parliament.

"Why should any young person be made to study for a future when no one is doing enough to save that future?" Greta asks. "What is the point of learning facts when the most important facts given by the finest scientists are ignored by our politicians?"

Greta has inspired students in hundreds of schools in Sweden and elsewhere. Last Friday, 15,000 primary and high school students in Australia went on strike for climate action.

"If you're supporting the fossil fuel industry then you don't truly care about the future generations," said Marco Bellemo, a 17-year-old Australian student.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the world's foremost scientific body, recently said global carbon emissions need to be cut in half by 2030 to prevent climate change from threatening human civilization. No country has a plan to do this.

Greta says, to be fair, rich countries should make even larger cuts and get close to zero carbon, so people in poorer countries can raise "their standard of living by building some of the infrastructures that we have already built."

No one is talking about climate change as a crisis and a consequence of our way of life. Nor are political leaders treating it as the biggest issue we have ever faced, she said.

What children want is a future climate they can thrive in. Surely that's not asking too much?

Stephen Leahy, winner of the 2018 SEAL Environmental Journalism Award, Uxbridge

### **Classification**

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**Language:** ENGLISH

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**Document-Type:** COLUMN

**Publication-Type:** NEWSPAPER

**Subject:** EDITORIALS & OPINIONS (99%); CHILD SAFETY (90%); CHILDREN, ADOLESCENTS & TEENS (90%); CLIMATE CHANGE (90%); CLIMATOLOGY (90%); EMISSIONS (90%); GREENHOUSE GASES (90%); STUDENTS & STUDENT LIFE (90%); JOURNALISM (89%); REPORTS, REVIEWS & SECTIONS (79%); CLIMATE ACTION (78%); ELECTIONS & POLITICS (78%); NEWS REPORTING (78%); WRITERS (78%); ENTERTAINMENT & ARTS AWARDS (76%); CLIMATE CHANGE REGULATION & POLICY (73%); EDUCATION & TRAINING (73%); POLITICS (73%); PROTESTS & DEMONSTRATIONS (73%); ADULTS (69%); INDUSTRY AWARDS (69%); HIGH SCHOOLS (68%); LIVING STANDARDS (61%)

**Industry:** EMISSIONS (90%); NEWS REPORTING (78%); WRITERS (78%); ENTERTAINMENT & ARTS AWARDS (76%); ENERGY & UTILITIES (73%); MORTGAGE LOANS (70%); HIGH SCHOOLS (68%)

**Person:** GRETA THUNBERG (79%)

**Geographic:** ONTARIO, CANADA (58%); AUSTRALIA (92%); SWEDEN (90%)

**Load-Date:** December 10, 2018

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